Ferrie

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M E M O R A N D U M

March 14, 1967

TO: LOUIS IVON

FROM: FENNER SEDGEBEER

RE: REV. S. ARJONILLA

At 2 P. M. March 13, 1967, Sedgebeer in company with Niedermeier interviewed REV. S. ARJONILLA, Pastor of St. Hubert's Catholic Church located in Garyville, Louisiana. Father ARJONILLA was shown a set of photographs wherein DAVE FERRIE appears in order to ascertain whether or not REV. ARJONILLA could recognize DAVE FERRIE. However, REV. ARJONILLA could not identify him. The following is a tape recording of the conversation with REV. ARJONILLA.

"He came to the house once or twice. He was promoting some kind of philosophy to the children. I don't remember how many he said he had. He was suppose to be a theologian, studying for the priesthood but had been kicked out, FERRIE had said. I said what philosophy for what, but he says that he was having these youngsters come around him, and he was teaching them about God and different things and which I was not interested in his work, you see, and once then a second time he came to Thibodeaux and I asked him to ride with me. I wanted to find out what was his mentality, you see. Then I get to find out that he was flying a plane in New Orleans. He was a pilot, and I asked him what the things that a pilot does. But that's all, nothing else.

Sedgebeer — Well, when was the last time that you remember seeing him, Father?

Father — Eleven years. You see, I 'm here four years and five years in Raceland and five years in Kenner. During that five years he was flying a plane I think somewhere in Kenner. He was a pilot there and he used to come to my church.

Niedermeier — That would be around in 1963.

Father — And some of the boys told me that he had bought it. (referring to the plane). Then I heard again that he had gone in prison, somebody told me that he went to prison. Did he?

Sedgebeer — Well, he was in trouble.

Father — In trouble or something.

Sedgebeer — Yes, right there in Kenner right by the airport.

Father — Out past the dead end.

Sedgebeer — That's one of the older pictures when he had lost all of his hair and that's one of the other ones with his wig on. Every bit of the hair. It's a little blur.

Father — Eleven years

Sedgebeer — Let me get your full name.

Father — Rev. S. ARJONILLA. I was pastro of Kenner then, he used to come to my church there.

Sedgebeer — I was surprised to learn that he was a devout Catholic toward the end there.

Father — He died?

Sedgebeer — You mustn't read the papers.

Father — Is that the same fellow we're talking about?

Sedgebeer — Yes.

Father — I don't know it was the same fellow. I don't know him by his name. I don't remember his name.

Sedgebeer — You never heard from him in 1963?

Father — No

Sedgebeer — Were you pastor in 1963?

Father — Yes, I was six years in Kenner, but I don't remember what year I was in Kenner.

Sedgebeer — Well, you didn't remember any people coming to you saying that they were referred to you by FERRIE?

Father — He had a bunch of boys and they used to go to his house and some of the boys I said you know son that's not good. The man that's teaching you about God is not favorable, not good. That was the last I heard . When I heard from him he was in some trouble. The next time I heard from him again he came to my house and said, Father, I use to be a theologist,a philosopher . . . . so I was very glad to hear that he was a theologian. He lived somewhere around Kenner, he had a farm there teaching some young men some kind of subject in aeronautics or something, I don't know. Then one day I asked him to come with me to Thibodeaux as a ride and then I would like to learn more about his theology and we talked. I had some other fellow in the car with me then we went back to Kenner, and he went home and that's the last I saw of him. And you say that was the same fellow?

Sedgebeer — Yes

Father — I went to Kenner and from Kenner I went to Raceland and I lived in Raceland for five years then I came here.

Sedgebeer How about SISTER LEVRENTIA, she's at Charity Hospital. She's been there for 35 years.

Father I don't know. Who is she?

Sedgebeer I don't know what order she's in.

Father He knew many religious because as he was a religious philosopher and theologian and in the secular churches, I think he was about to become a sub-deacon but he didn't make the grade and then he went out. I don't know the reason why. I didn't ask him. But he has known various people in other words he wanted to make himself acquainted with the various religious persons because he to was once a religious.

Sedgebeer He classed himself as a psychologist in the directory and his main living was derived from flying, piloting an aircraft.

Father In New Orleans, I know. I being the pastor, he visited me, you see, he come and say hello and wanted to make himself known to me. The second time I heard of him he was having a group of young men whom he was teaching them certain things about God and so and so, but I did not favor it because I did not think he came in the right period and said, well father I would like to have you help me in teaching catechism. I would have encourged him to come and help him along, you see, but he didn't come. He had his own way of thinking.

Sedgebeer The name LEE HARVEY OSWALD doesn't mean anything to you?

Father I don't know.

Sedgebeer Was FERRIE ever in the company of someone when he came to visit you. Was he always by himself?

Father Yes, always by himself. He really gives an impression. He comes to church in a uniform. He gives a very good impression.

Niedermeier What kind of uniform was he wearing, black?

Father Black sometimes jet black when he was in the service at the airport in the airlines.

Sedgebeer Regular commercial line uniform.

Father It never rang a bell when this person did.

Sedgebeer You never noticed his eyebrows appeared to be glued on or painted or make-up on his face.

Father No, I didn't notice.

Sedgebeer Well, this was

Father Inaudible. . . . . that was eleven years ago.

Sedgebeer — Eleven years. But he has been located down here for several years before that since the 40's at least.

Father — He must have been moving around because at the last part, he came to Kenner to live near the airport, you see.

Sedgebeer — That must have been around 1956.

Father — I have five years in Raceland and I have three years here, that is nine years, huh?

Sedgebeer — Eight

Father — I tell you, my housekeeper knows the years I've been here - Miss Henry!

Miss Henry — Yes, Father?

Father — Would you come here please - she remembers dates and all - - - you remember when I left Kenner, what year, did I go to Raceland?

Miss Henry — '58

Father — '58, that's it.

Miss Henry — You went in '52 to Kenner.

Father — '52, and we went in '58 to Raceland - she keeps the dates so.

Miss Henry — And we've been here four years.

Father — Here four years, thank you.

Niedermeier — It was right before you left Kenner that you saw Ferrie?

Father — When could it have been - - about a year.

Sedgebeer — The latter part of that year?

Father — Yes, the latter part of that year.

Sedgebeer — Was that '63.

Father — We left in '58

Sedgebeer — Oh, '58, then you went to Raceland. Then you had no reason to believe that he was preaching anything but for the good of the religion but he just wasnt qualified.

Father — I found this, that if he had come to me and help me, you see, but he was doing what he wanted to teach in his own way of doing this. If he wanted to help me, he could have come.

Sedgebeer You had no reason to believe that he was preaching against the church?

Father No, because he goes to church regularly and Sunday morning, he was there, and was very courteous.

Niedermeier What church was he buried at?

Sedgebeer Way down in Chalmette - only two people showed up for the funeral.

Niedermeier Down in Chalmette - he got buried in the St. Bernard Memorial.

Father You see, what you come and told me just now, I never knew the Ferrie that came to see me was the same.

Sedgebeer Well, you probably wouldn't have recognized his picture.

Niedermeier Something happened to all his hair; he was balder than a cue-ball. He pasted his eyebrows on.

Father I know he had a bald head. This is how I know him.

Sedgebeer That is all I wanted to find out that maybe OSWALD had visited you, but information I got, he did, when these boys got in trouble, he was actually telling them to come and see you, you were a very good friend.

Father He came twice, once to recommend himself to me for my disposal if I wanted to use him for religious purposes but I told him he could, but he never came. He had his own thing. I never saw him anymore.